

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 IOE-00 L-03 OIC-02

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5613

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION GENEVA

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ABIDJAN FOR ASST. SECY MAYNES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB, ILO, ZA

SUBJ: ZAMBIAN MINISTER OF LABOR OPTIMISTIC ABOUT 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE (ILC)

REF: (A) STATE 102699 (B) STATE 103403 (C) TRIPOLI 0594

SUMMARY: ZAMBIAN MINISTER OF LABOR H.D. BANDA RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO PRESENTATION OF U.S. CONCERNS REGARDING UPCOMING 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE (ILC) (REFTEL A) AND INDICATED THAT ZAMBIA INTENDED TO SEEK COMMITTEE POSTS OF INTEREST TO THE U.S. AT CONFERENCE. BANDA FLATLY STATED THAT GRZ OPPOSED THE POLITICIZATION OF ILO WHICH IS A SPECIALIZED AGENCY WHICH SHOULD NOT DEAL WITH MATTERS APPROPRIATE TO OTHER FORA. HE WAS MORE OPTIMISTIC REGARDING PROGRESS MADE ON ARTICLE 17 AT TRIPOLI THAN APPEARED TO BE THE CASE IN TRIPOLI'S 0594. BANDA EMPHASIZED THAT THERE IS A GROWING AWARENESS AND RESENTMENT AMONG AFRICAN STATES OF ARAB MANEUVERS TO USE THE AFRICANS IN SUPPORT OF ARAB INTERESTS.

END SUMMARY.

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1. CHARGE AND EMBOFF CALLED ON ZAMBIAN MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL SERVICES HAYDEN DINGISWAYO BANDA MAY 10 AS DIRECTED BY REFTEL A. BANDA REACTED POSITIVELY TO THE CHARGE'S PRESENTATION OF THE CRITICAL ISSUES AT THE UPCOMING 63RD CONFERENCE (PARAS 7 AND 8 REFTEL A). HE RECALLED EARLIER DISCUSSIONS WITH HOROWITZ, STATING THAT THE ZAMBIAN

POSITION HAD NOT CHANGED SINCE THEN. HE REITERATED THAT

ZAMBIA WAS OPPOSED TO THE POLITICIZATION OF THE ILO WHICH IS A SPECIALIZED AGENCY THAT SHOULD FOCUS ON LABOR MATTERS, NOT POLITICAL ISSUES FOR WHICH THERE ARE OTHER FORA. CHARGE NOTED THE MIXED NATURE OF PROGRESS MADE ON MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE U.S., I.E., ARTICLE 17 AND CONDEMNATION WITHOUT INVESTIGATION. IN REPLY, BANDA WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF U.S. POSITIONS RECEIVING SUPPORT AT THE 63RD CONFERENCE. THE DECISIONS OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING, HE SAID, POINTED IN THIS DIRECTION.

2. ASKED FOR HIS OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS' MEETING IN TRIPOLI, BANDA SAID HE AND HIS AFRICAN COLLEAGUES HAD DISCUSSED MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE U.S., ESPECIALLY ARTICLE 17. ON ARITICLE 17, HE HAD FOUND GENERAL SUPPORT FOR ITS AMENDMENT ALONG LINES ADVOCATED BY THE U.S. BANDA SAID HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAD NOT DISCUSSED THE STRUCTURE ISSUE IN DEPTH AND HAD ARRIVED AT NO COMMON POSITION. THE AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS PLAN TO CAUCUS IN GENEVA MAY 30 TO REVIEW THE STRUCTURE QUESTION PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE ZAMBIAN DELEGATION WOULD SEEK COMMITTEE POSITIONS FROM WHICH IT COULD ADVANCE ITS VIEWS. WITH SOME HEAT BANDA SAID AFRICAN MEMBER STATES WERE INCREASINGLY AWARE THAT AFRICAN-ARAB STATES WERE ACTING AS THE AGENTS OF THE ARAB LABOR MINISTER'S CONFERENCE. THESE ARAB AFRICANS WERE ATTEMPTING TO BRING THEIR AFRICAN COLLEAGUES INTO LINE WITH POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE ARAB LABOR MINISTERS. ACCORDING TO BANDA, AFRICAN RESENTMENT OF THIS

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ARAB TACTIC IS GROWING AND ZAMBIA AND ITS FRIENDS ARE DETERMINED TO RESIST.

3. TOWARD THE END OF THE MEETING, BANDA, WITHOUT APPARENT RESENTMENT, EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE ILO HAD INFORMED THE TRIPOLI CONFERENCE THAT THE CONFERENCE PRESIDENCY WAS TO GO TO AN ENGLISH SPEAKING WEST AFRICAN STATE. THE ZAMBIA WERE UNDER THE IMPRESSION (AS WAS THE EMBASSY) THAT THE PRESIDENCY WAS GOING TO AN EAST AFRICAN STATE AND THAT BANDA WAS A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE. BANDA WAS PLEASED THAT SKETCHLEY SACIKA, HIS ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY, HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF ILO AND HOPES THAT THIS WILL IMPROVE THE FLOW OF INFORMATION ABOUT ILO DEVELOPMENTS IN GENEVA TO LUSAKA.

4. CHARGE LEFT WITH MINISTER A WRITTEN SUMMARY OF THE CRITICAL ISSUES BASED ON REFTEL A AND WILL DO THE SAME WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN SEPARATE CALL. COMPOSITION OF ZAMBIA DELEGATION, WHICH WILL BE LED BY MINISTER BANDA, WILL BE

PROVIDED SEPTEL. BANDA AGREED THAT BRIEFING OF WORKERS' AND EMPLOYERS' DELEGATES WOULD BE DESIRABLE AND WE WILL DO SO IF WE CAN TRACK THEM DOWN.

COMMENT: BANDA'S COMMENTS INDICATE THAT THE DISPOSITION OF THE GRZ MINISTRY OF LABOR TO HELP MEET U.S. CONCERNS REGARDING ILO APPARENTLY REMAIN UNCHANGED SINCE HOROWITZ'S VISIT IN JANUARY. ZAMBIAN DELEGATION IN GENEVA WILL BE APPROACHABLE AND WE BELIEVE COOPERATIVE. HOWEVER, WE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF THE ZAMBIANS TAKE OUT FRONT POSITION ON CONTENTIOUS ISSUES SINCE THEY WILL BE SUBJECTED TO PRESSURES FROM THEIR THIRD WORLD COLLEAGUES.

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